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'Let's light this candle'

A rocket ship designed and built by Elon Musk's SpaceX company has lifted off with two Americans aboard a history-making flight to the International Space Station. PAGE A7

PROTESTS

A COUNTRY IN TURMOIL

Day of outrage: Man's death, virus, economy add up to widespread chaos

By Andre Mouchard
amouchard@scng.com

It's not your imagination: The unrest sweeping through America this week is more widespread and more violent than any spree of national demonstrations since the 1960s.

A country that guarantees the right to assemble in its constitution, and has always accepted public protest as a form of communication — from the Boston Tea Party to the Women's March of 2017 — seems to be staggering into chaos one city at a time.

Minneapolis, Atlanta, Los Angeles, Chicago, New York, Newark, Louisville, Washington, D.C. ... By midday Saturday, no fewer than 26 American cities had been sites of active protests, and by Saturday night, dozens more were expected to join in.

What's more, few demonstrations are sticking to protest signs and songs.

In Minneapolis, a police station was burned to the ground. In Louisville, seven people were injured by gunshot. In Washington, D.C., protesters held the White House under siege, prompting the Secret Service to coordinate with police to protect the safety of the president and his family. At least two people — a protester in Detroit and a contract security officer working for the federal government in Oakland — were shot and killed.

Baton strikes and pepper spray, Molotov cocktails and police cars in flames; this week has taken the spotlight from a global pandemic.

In Los Angeles — where on Saturday officers fired rubber bullets at protesters and Mayor Eric Garcetti imposed a curfew to try to quiet the streets, which was Los Angeles Police Department Chief Michel Moore's assessment of the events seemed to invoke a collapse of civility itself.

PROTESTS » PAGE 8

PHOTO BY AXEL KOESTER

Protesters take to the streets in the Fairfax area of Los Angeles on Saturday, declared a National Day of Protest over the death of George Floyd, who died at the hands of a Minneapolis police officer. In L.A., police cars were set afire and vandalized and business windows were smashed,

WILL LESTER — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A protest supporter stands up in his vehicle as he encourages other demonstrators on Saturday, the second day of protests in Rancho Cucamonga over the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

Inland Empire: Peaceful but defiant marchers voice anger at Minneapolis man's killing by police

By Ryan Hagen, Brian Rokos and Javier Rojas
Staff Writers

Protests took place throughout the Inland Empire on Saturday, each drawing scores to hundreds of demonstrators calling for justice for George Floyd, a black man who died in police custody Monday in Minneapolis. Some protests across the nation turned into riots Saturday, but the Inland Empire's — in Temecula, Riverside, Rancho Cucamonga and Pomona — were mostly peaceful despite several faceoffs with police.

"It's clear that hate has no color or age," said Leilei Hawkins, 24, of Riverside, who added she helped organize the rally in her city. "And unless we address it in the most responsible way, as a society we won't advance."

Not too far away, in downtown Los Angeles, before nightfall, the Los Angeles Police Department made several arrests after declaring an unlawful assembly in the Fairfax District. Thousands of protesters assembled, some smashing windows of po-

INLAND » PAGE 4

TRANSPORTATION

Musk's company proposes tunnel instead of rail to Ontario Airport

By Steve Scauzillo
sscauzillo@scng.com
@stevscaz on Twitter

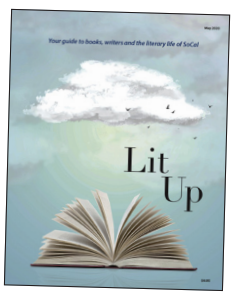
Elon Musk's The Boring Co. has proposed digging a 2.8-mile underground tunnel linking Rancho Cucamonga with Ontario International Airport as an alternative to extending a light-rail system from Pomona, San Bernardino County transportation officials said.

The subsurface people-mover project would be the first of its kind in San Bernardino County and could replace stalled plans to construct an above-ground extension of the L Line (formerly Gold Line) light-rail that currently ends in Los Angeles County. Other projects on a preliminary list of alternatives to the L Line include a zero-emission train from a Metrolink Station off the San Bernardino Line or a connection from the Riverside Metrolink Line, which has a stop south of Ontario airport.

At $60 million, the proposed tunnel from Rancho to the airport would cost considerably less than the $1- to $1.5-billion light-rail extension from Pomona and could be built in three to four years

AIRPORT » PAGE 6

Literary SoCal



INSIDE: Just in time for summer reading enjoyment, the Southern California News Group launches "Lit Up: Your guide to books, writers and the literary life of SoCal." Literary festivals and book events may have been shuttered in the wake of the pandemic, but voracious readers can still enjoy discovering new releases and reading interviews with favorite local authors via "Lit Up."

Also, stay tuned for SCNG's "Lit Up" virtual series with NPR commentator, author and performer Sandra Tsing Loh hosting wide-ranging conversations on books, ideas and the literary life that will highlight local authors and well-known personalities. The first episode goes live June 12.

INSIDE: The 13th installment from Peter Houlahan's 2019 book, "Norco '80: The True Story of the Most Spectacular Robbery in American History," about a Southern California bank heist. A12

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